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anarchy itself was largely of Frederick's making, and we have his directions to his envoys to give it encouragement and secretly oppose all reforms. In all probability it was at Frederick's suggestion that Austria seized on Zips and precipitated the partition. We know that at the very moment of the seizure Russia was greatly alarmed at the frequency with which envoys passed between Berlin and Vienna and that it was common talk in St. Petersburg that the two courts concerted all their measures in common.

ERNEST F. HENDERSON.

The Scottish Staple in the Netherlands: an Account of the Trade Relations between Scotland and the Low Countries from 1292 till 1676, with a Calendar of Illustrative Documents. By MATTHIJS ROOSEBOOM, M.A., D.Litt. (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. 1910. Pp. xiv, 237, ccxlv.)

THAT interest in the economic history of Scotland has been greatly stimulated in recent years is amply shown by the appearance, within a year of each other, of two works on the Scottish Staple. The first, a volume of 453 pages, by Davidson and Gray, has been already noticed in this journal (XV. 122-124). The volume before us, therefore, naturally arouses a query as to the value of a second study of the subject at this time. To this Mr. Rooseboom replies by announcing a work radically different both as to method and content. His volume is narrower in scope and more intensive in its treatment, and affords an account of the external vicissitudes of the Scottish Staple which, in point of accuracy and thoroughness of research, easily surpasses any other treatment of the subject. Every move in the relation of the Staple trade with the Low Countries is traced with commendable patience and care by means of documents in a dozen archives, and considerable new light is thrown on the subject.

Thus the interesting petition of the middle of the fourteenth century to Bruges and the city's detailed reply (p. 7, and app. 8 and 9) affords us a starting-point of considerably earlier date than we have had heretofore. A keen critical analysis (pp. 28 ff.) of Haliburton's *Ledger* and of the Dutch chroniclers satisfactorily establishes the view that, instead of the Staple being located at Bruges from 1483 to 1494, it was not fixed at all; that conditions were unsettled even to 1522, trade "fluctuating between Middelburg, Veere, and Bruges", and that the final settlement of the Staple at Veere did not occur until 1541 (p. 65). But, in spite of the many instances where the sources are well worked out, there is at times a plethora of raw material in the text, all of which and much more is again found in the 177 documents of the appendix. Among these, however, are scarcely any emanating from the Staple organization itself. As in the case of the Merchant Adventurers, little is extant.

But this is, from the standpoint of Mr. Rooseboom, not so serious,

for he concerns himself almost exclusively with the external side of the Staple history. The accidental circumstances of its external relations, usually of a purely diplomatic nature, are chronicled in great detail, while very little effort is made to bring out its internal organization and functions, or to articulate its development with the broader economic conditions of the period. This same tendency is seen in the fact that virtually no use is made of parallel developments in England and on the Continent. The English Staple, the Merchant Adventurers, the Hanseatic League, Dutch and even Prussian commercial politics, afford striking points of comparison and contrast with the Scottish institution that would have been very illuminating. Indeed, a little more play of that historical imagination which the author thrusts aside so unkindly in his introductory paragraph, would have added much even to the scholarly value of the work. Incidentally, it may also be noted that the titles in the bibliography appear without date or place of publication, that the view of Veere is of a period later than that of the text, and that occasional misprints like 1687 for 1587 (p. 107) occur.

But, notwithstanding these criticisms, Mr. Rooseboom is to be congratulated, not only for his thorough and patient researches, but also for his distinct contribution to the history of the subject. It is a pleasure also to note that, instead of duplicating in a large measure the work of his predecessors, he has rather strengthened and supplemented it, especially where the Dutch archives were of service to correct or expand the account by Yair.

WILLIAM E. LINGELBACH.

The High Court of Parliament and its Supremacy: an Historical Essay on the Boundaries between Legislation and Adjudication in England. By CHARLES HOWARD MCILWAIN, Thomas Brackett Reed Professor of History and Political Science in Bowdoin College. (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1910. Pp. xix, 409.)

PROBABLY no theme has been written upon more extensively than that of the English Parliament, and yet there are many phases of its history which remain for further investigation and treatment. The present work is a study of Parliament in the light of recent political science, and centres upon the evolution of judicial and legislative functions. In the beginning there was no distinct power of legislation, for the Middle Ages rested upon the fundamental conception that the law should be applied as occasion required, but that it was not to be seriously changed. Without distinctions which to us are "as clear as sunlight", there was at first but one function of government, which was still in the future to be differentiated and defined. Parliament was in fact a court, which differed from other courts only as it was a higher power and interpreted the law with greater latitude. So the early statutes are found to be